



Committee of the Whole

Meeting Date: May 14, 2019

Submitted by: Neal Roberts, Chief of Middlesex-London Paramedic Service
and Director of Emergency Services

SUBJECT: 2019 FUNDING LETTER FOR MIDDLESEX LONDON
PARAMEDIC SERVICE

BACKGROUND:

Middlesex London Paramedic Service is funded on an annual basis through funds received from the County of Middlesex, City of London and the Province of Ontario. Historically the province of Ontario funds up to 50% of the operating budget based on the prior year's approved budget. This funding practice has historically caused a 1 year lag in the province matching 50% of Land Ambulance Costs. The Ministry funding levels for Middlesex London Paramedic Service for the past years are as follows:

2017 Funding Level: \$16,381,715.00

2018 Funding Level: \$17,439,197.00

ANALYSIS:

On Tuesday May 7, 2019, Middlesex County was issued the Land Ambulance Grant Funding Letter from the Ontario Government (see attached). The letter informed Middlesex County and Middlesex London Paramedic Service the funding for the 2019 Budget would be held at the same amount as issued in 2018. The announcement in essence means that funding by the Province of Ontario will be held at a 50% level of the approved 2017 Budget (due to the year lag in funding), thus creating a 2- year lag in expected funding gap for the County of Middlesex. Based on the projected/expected funding (contained in the 2019 Budget submission), Middlesex London Paramedic Service will face a short fall of \$745,638.00 for this fiscal year. This shortfall is in addition to an approved "draw on reserves" of \$500,000.00 for this fiscal year.

At this time, Senior Management within Middlesex London Paramedic Service is examining all options to address this funding shortfall for 2019. A report will be provided to Middlesex County Council in the very near future.

Attachments



**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

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HLTC-3967IT-2019-11

Mr. Bill Rayburn
Chief Administrative Officer
The County of Middlesex
399 Ridout Street North
London ON N6A 2P1

Dear Mr. Rayburn:

Re: 2019/20 Budget Allocation for the County of Middlesex

As you are aware, on April 11, 2019 the government tabled its 2019 budget. This year's budget reflects the outcomes of a comprehensive multi-year planning process that built on the findings of EY Canada's line-by-line review, and the ideas identified in the Planning for Prosperity Survey and the Big Bold Ideas Challenge. The government conducted a thorough review of all government programs in order to ensure investments are sustainable and modernized. The review is also meant to ensure that duplication is eliminated, and valuable programs and services are sustainable and delivering outcomes for the people of Ontario.

In addition to this review, all ministries were required to identify administrative savings. This was to be done by identifying opportunities to modernize services in order to reduce administrative costs and burden, while improving services across ministries, agencies and transfer-payment partners. Ministries considered how they could eliminate duplicative and non-value added processes, and implement automation and other streamlining solutions where repetitive and routine tasks existed previously.

Ministries, agencies and transfer-payment partners are all expected to think differently about how programs and services can be delivered in an improved and sustainable manner that drives efficiencies and maximizes value for money. The government is focused on moving to an efficient, transparent and accountable transfer payment system that will enable evidence-based decision-making and reduce costs and administrative burden. As the province is taking steps to modernize and transform its own operations, it expects service delivery partners to do the same – to identify and realize opportunities for efficiencies, improved service delivery, and better client/user outcomes.

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Subsequent to this review, and in line with the government's commitment to support frontline care, I am writing to inform you that the 2019/20 base funding for the County of Middlesex will continue to be \$17,439,197, as provided in 2018/19. There will be no reductions in 2019/20 Land Ambulance Service Grant funding compared to 2018/19 funding.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (the "ministry") expects that the County of Middlesex use this stable funding to minimize any impact on programs and services that provide or support direct patient care. As always, the County of Middlesex should identify operational and administrative efficiencies associated with non-direct programs and services while ensuring the on-going provision of frontline services that patients rely on every day.

As the ministry advances its plan to modernize emergency health services in Ontario, we will work directly alongside municipal partners to engage in meaningful discussions about protecting and enhancing emergency support services across Ontario. The government is committed to embedding a focus on maximizing the value of investments into future multi-year planning processes and into the culture of the Ontario Public Service more broadly. To that end, the government will undertake program evaluations on a permanent and ongoing basis to ensure government services are meeting people's needs and to identify ways to modernize programs and save money.

We appreciate your cooperation with the ministry in managing your funding as effectively as possible. You are expected to adhere to our reporting requirements, particularly for financial reporting, which is expected to be timely and accurate. It is also essential that you manage costs within your approved budget.

The ministry sincerely values the important contributions of the County of Middlesex to improving health outcomes for Ontarians and remains committed to working with the County of Middlesex to support the continuation of direct services while work on modernizing Ontario's health care system continues.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Shawn Wolkowski, Senior Field Manager at (905) 383-3676 or Shawn.Wolkowski@ontario.ca or James Romain, Manager, Financial and Transfer Payment Oversight at (416) 327-7869 or James.Romain@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,



Alison Blair
Executive Director, Emergency Health Services Office

c: Mr. Kurtis Smith, Warden, The County of Middlesex
Mr. Neal Roberts, EMS Chief, The County of Middlesex
Mr. Jim Yuill, Director, Financial Management Branch, MOHLTC
Ms. Teresa Buchanan, Director, Fiscal Oversight & Performance Branch, MOHLTC
Ms. Alison Blair, Assistant Deputy Minister, Hospitals and Emergency Services Division (Interim)
Mr. Stuart Mooney, Director,
Emergency Health Program Management & Delivery Branch, MOHLTC (Interim)



May 7, 2019

Another Budget Shoe drops today

Municipal governments are receiving another provincial budget impact today. The cost shared ambulance grants are now frozen at 2018 levels. Due to the yearly funding lag, it should be noted these 2018 levels are actually based on the province's 2017 funding allocation. Any growth in service costs contained in municipal 2019 budgets will fall to municipal taxpayers.

AMO is doing cumulative impact analysis as fiscal information becomes available for all affected service areas such as public health and child care. The impacts will be weighted against the Budget's comment that changes and costs need to be sustainable for both orders of government^[1]. AMO's Board will be considering a full response to the Province.

Municipal governments already contribute at least \$2.1 billion to health services, from mandated cost-shared ambulance and public health to filling gaps such as on mental health, physician recruitment and the opioid crisis on the ground.

As well, in today's funding letter the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care stated that "as the ministry advances its plan to modernize emergency health services in Ontario, we will work directly alongside municipal partners to engage in meaningful discussions about protecting and enhancing emergency support services across Ontario".

Contact:

Monika Turner, Director of Policy, mturner@amo.on.ca, 416-971-9856 ext. 318.

^[1] The Ontario Budget stated that the province is: "Being a true provincial partner that listens to the needs of communities while ensuring financial sustainability for both the Province and municipalities". Page 149.

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